United Nations A/65/822–S/2011/253

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 68
Promotion and protection of human rights

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 15 April 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Bahrain (see annex).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eshagh Al Habib
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 15 April 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The ongoing situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain is the source of deepest concern for the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As my country is situated in the immediate vicinity of Bahrain, and has enjoyed age-old and deep historical and cultural affinities with its people, we cannot remain indifferent to a condition that may get out of hand and lead towards the destabilization of the whole Persian Gulf area, with impact on the wider Middle Eastern region and beyond.

A series of regrettable developments in Bahrain, referred to briefly hereunder, explain the deep concern felt in my country:

- Reports from different sources indicate that the people of Bahrain, in their peaceful uprising, since mid-February, have focused on such legitimate demands as political reform, political participation, greater respect for human rights in the country, the liberation of political prisoners, the end to apartheid-like discrimination and the right to elect their parliamentary representatives and government. It is very unfortunate that repression and a crackdown were the responses to their peaceful expression of their social and political aspirations. As a result, unarmed civilian demonstrators were shot at close range and many went missing, private homes were broken into, the country's largest hospital was besieged and medical staff, including ambulance workers, were beaten, thus putting the right to life on hold.

- The main concern lies in the measures adopted and implemented that are indicative of a policy of suppression in place in Bahrain. The foreign military intervention in Bahrain has only taken place to strengthen the Government's hands in repressing the popular legitimate demands. We strongly believe that the policy of suppression is never the right answer, especially in a situation where people have risen up to demand their basic rights. Quite to the contrary, suppression may exacerbate the situation and bring the society to the boiling point.

- It is unfortunate that a policy of suppression is unfolding in Bahrain under the eyes of the United Nations Security Council and that the big Powers have chosen to stay aside and are reluctant to take any action, or, at the least, to condemn the violence against peaceful civilians. Does this indicate that, as elsewhere, good allies may always have greater scope in terms of violence, and, when perceived interests are at stake, siding with autocrats and forfeiting much publicized "values" may be put on hold?

- Seizing this opportunity, I would like to categorically reject the desperate attempts by the Bahraini authorities, who seek to implicate my Government in a situation that is only the result of their own miscalculations and missteps. While friendship and affinities between the Iranians and Bahrainis are well rooted in their long and mostly common history, the latter, as every other people, do not need inspiration from abroad to embark on a movement seeking

to acquire their basic rights. Moreover, no accusations can erase the fact that unarmed protesters are subject to human rights violations.

As there is no military solution to the problems in Bahrain and the foreign military intervention against a domestic peaceful movement would sooner or later exacerbate the situation, my Government condemns the resort to violence against peaceful civilians and asks for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Bahrain. In the meantime, I would like to request the United Nations, especially the Security Council, to fulfil its obligations, with a view to requiring the authorities of Bahrain and those of the intervening military forces to refrain from violence against peaceful civilians, to have the Bahraini Government treat all Bahrainis in a fair way, with respect and human dignity, and to resolve problems in the country through political dialogue.

At the same time, the international community needs to take pains to show respect for the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the Bahrainis and do whatever is in its power to help address their legitimate aspirations. While endeavouring to require Bahrain's authorities to fulfil their international legal obligations, it should not allow steps that may lead towards alienating the Bahrainis.

(*Signed*) Ali Akbar **Salehi**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran